

## News Release

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### IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## United States and Japan to Negotiate Environmental Stewardship Agreement

The Department of Defense welcomes the announcement today in Tokyo that the United States and Japan will negotiate a framework to further address environmental stewardship of United States military activities in Japan. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said, "The United States Armed Forces appreciates its close partnership with Japanese Self Defense Forces and the Government of Japan."

Secretary Hagel added, "This framework will help guide our activities going forward related to our shared goal of reducing impact to Japan's precious natural landscape as we continue to conduct operations that provide for the common defense of Japan. This is yet another step we are taking together in order to update and modernize our alliance to ensure it is able meet the security challenges of the 21st century."

This framework will include a bilateral agreement that will supplement the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), and will apply to all U.S. activities across Japan, including Okinawa.